



Nepal Food Security Bulletin

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नेपाल खाद्य सुरक्षा अनुगमन प्रणाली
Nepal Khadiya Surakshya Anugaman Pranali (NeKSAP)
Nepal Food Security Monitoring System

HIGHLIGHTS AND SITUATION SUMMARY

This issue covers the period of mid-March to mid-July 2017, the third trimester of Nepali Fiscal Year 2073/74 (the Nepali months of *Chaitra*, *Baisakh*, *Jestha*, and *Asadh*). It is based on the outcomes of NeKSAP District Food Security Network (DFSN) meetings held in 74 of 75 districts in July 2017. General factors affecting food security during this reporting period (between March and July) include the post-harvest period of winter crops (wheat, barley, and potato), the planting of summer crops (paddy and maize), and monsoon induced road blockades and associated supply chain offsets in some mountain districts of the country.

In this reporting period:

- The DFSN in Gorkha classified 9 Village Development Committees (VDCs), namely Bihi, Chhekampar, Chumchet, Kerauja, Lho, Prok, Samagaun, Sirdibas, and Uhiya, as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and estimated that roughly 2,400 people in those VDCs were highly food insecure and required external assistance to meet food and non-food needs. The DFSN attributed the situation to the lasting impacts of the April-May 2015 earthquakes and other factors including the slow pace of recovery, poor shelter conditions, and poor sanitation and hygiene.
- DFSNs classified an additional 158 VDCs in 13 districts as moderately food insecure (Phase 2). The majority of VDCs classified as Phase 2 were in the central hills and mountains (54 percent) and mid-western hills and mountains (30 percent).
- The food security situation in the earthquake affected districts has generally improved compared to the situation reported by the DFSNs over the past two years. None of the VDCs in these areas in the current period were classified as severely food insecure (Phase 4) and the number of VDCs classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) has decreased. Nevertheless, there remain pockets of food insecurity in Gorkha (as described above).
- The food security situation in some districts of the mid-and far-western regions has improved compared to the previous reporting period (mid-November 2016 to mid-March 2017) and the same period last year (mid-March to mid-July 2016). DFSNs attributed the improvement largely to the recent harvest of winter crops (wheat and barley) in May and June.
- According to Nepal Rastra Bank, the year-on-year Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 2.7 percent in July 2017. The sugar and sugar products sub-group had the largest year-on-year increase at 7.9 percent in July 2017. Compared to December 2016-March 2017, the price of coarse rice and wheat flour increased by 4.7 percent and 2.3 percent, respectively.

Note: The country received heavy rainfall during 10-13 August and subsequently a large stretch of the southern terai plains was flooded. NeKSAP undertook a rapid assessment of the flood through a 72-hour assessment and a detailed assessment on food security impacts of floods through ad hoc DFSN meetings. The findings of the ad hoc DFSN meetings will be shared separately.

CURRENT FOOD SECURITY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Food Security Clusters	Current period: mid-March to mid-July 2017	Change from mid-November 2016 to mid-March 2017	Outlook for Mid-July to mid-November 2017
Karnali		↑	↓
Far-Western Hill and Mountain		↑	→
Rapti-Bheri Hills		→	→
Western Terai		→	→
Central & Eastern Terai		→	→
Western Hill and Mountain		→	↑
Central Hill and Mountain		↑	↓
Eastern Hill and Mountain		→	→

- Minimally food insecure
- Moderately food insecure
- Highly food insecure
- Severely food insecure
- Humanitarian emergency

Change / Outlook

- ↓ Deteriorate
- Stay the same
- ↑ Improve

Overall, the food security situation has improved in this period as compared to the situation during November 2016 to March 2017 and the same period last year (mid-March to mid-July 2016). DFSNs reported significant improvement in the food security situation in the hill and mountain districts of the mid-and far-western regions where food security had deteriorated since 2015 because of poor crop production due to poor rainfall (2015) and subsequent winter drought (2015/16).

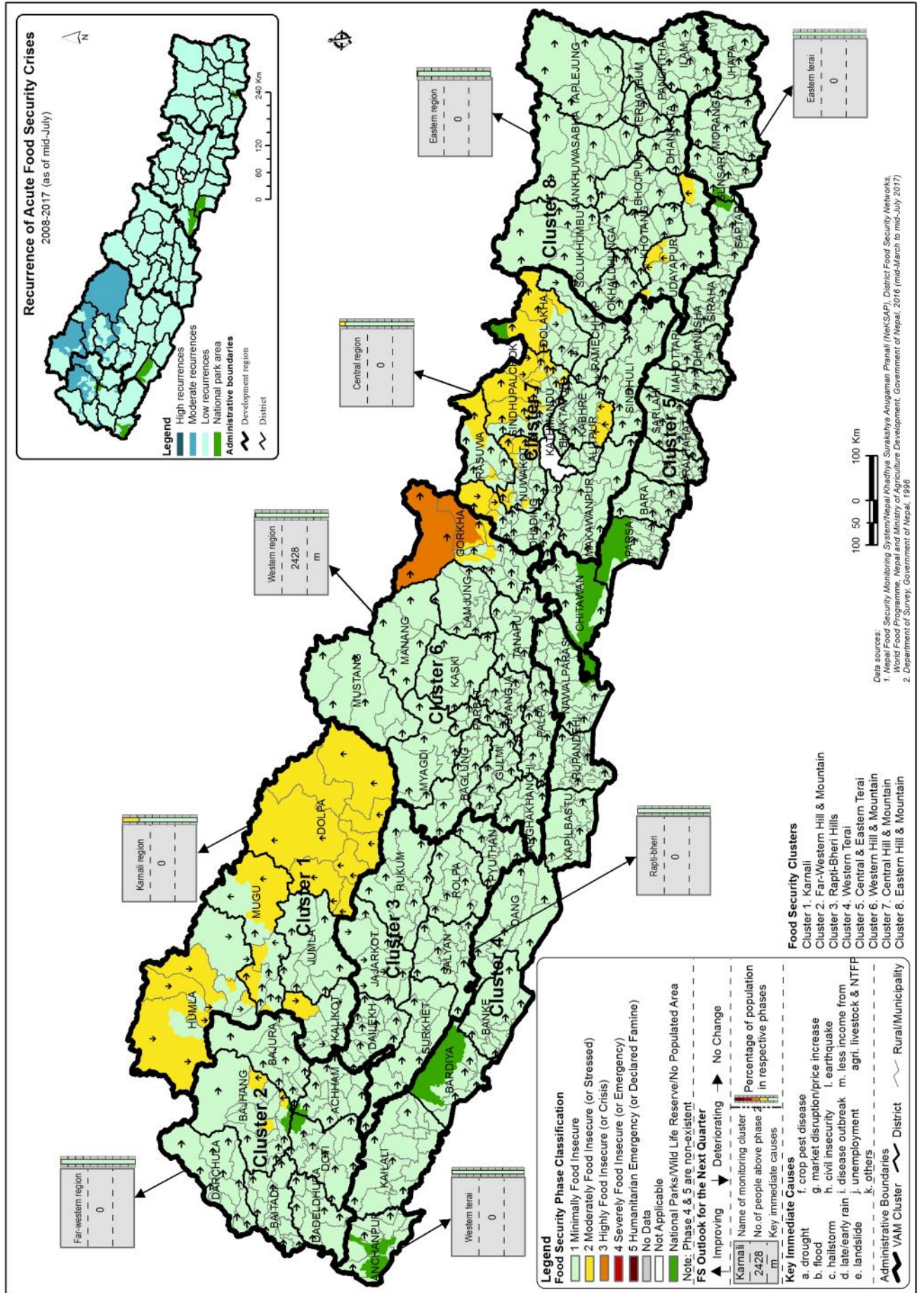
DFSNs attributed the current improvement to the harvest of winter crops (wheat, barley and potato) in May/June. The food security situation in the earthquake affected districts, on the other hand, has improved because of the winter crop harvests, reconstruction assistance, better road access and improved market function.

Overall, the DFSN in Gorkha classified 9 VDCs as highly food insecure (Phase 3) with an estimated affected population of approximately 2,400. Furthermore, DFSNs in 13 districts classified an additional 158 VDCs as moderately food insecure (Phase 2).

The food security situation in the next four months (mid-July to mid-November 2017) is likely to deteriorate. DFSNs forecasted that during mid-July to mid-November 2017 no VDCs are likely to be classified as severely food insecure (Phase 4) and the number of VDCs likely to be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) will increase to 37 (from 9 currently) and the number of VDCs likely to be classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2) will decrease to 150 (from 158 currently).

The Nepal Food Security Bulletin is jointly produced by the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) Food Security Monitoring Unit and the World Food Programme (WFP) Food Security Monitoring and Analysis Unit.

Map 1: NeKSAP integrated food security phase classification, mid-March to mid-July 2017
Source: 74 NeKSAP District Food Security Networks, July 2017



Food security maps are available at the NeKSAP website: www.neksap.org.np/food-security-phase-classification-maps

Current food insecure areas

The recent round of District Food Security Network meetings held in July 2017 reported that the overall food security situation has improved in this period (mid-March to mid-July 2017) as compared to the previous reporting period (mid-November 2016 to mid-March 2017) and the same period last year (mid-March to mid-July 2016).

The DFSN in Gorkha classified 9 Village Development Committees (VDCs) as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and estimated that roughly 2,400 people in those areas were affected and required external assistance (see **Table 1**). Phase 3 is defined as a situation where household food consumption gaps are higher than normal and households are able to meet minimum food needs only through the accelerated depletion of livelihood assets. DFSNs also classified an additional 158 VDCs in 13 districts as moderately food insecure (Phase 2). Phase 2 is defined as a situation where households are able to meet minimum food needs with traditional coping strategies but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies. **Map 1** shows the location of current food insecure areas in 74 districts.

Since the April-May 2015 earthquakes, DFSN meetings in the worst affected districts have reported a gradual improvement in the food security situation over time. These improvements have been attributed to remittance inflow, humanitarian assistance, crop harvests, the resumption of supply chains and markets and improved access with the repair of roads and trails damaged by the earthquakes. Nevertheless, pockets of food insecurity remain, which are geographically remote and where initial damage was higher and/or recovery has been slower. In the VDCs currently classified as Phase 3, DFSNs reported that low household food stocks, remoteness, and poor access to adequate shelter, drinking water and sanitation and hygiene were key contributing factors to the current situation.

The food security situation in many hill and mountain districts of the mid-and far-western development regions has improved in this reporting period. DFSNs attributed the situation largely to the winter crop harvests (wheat and barley) in May/June. It should be recalled that many of these districts had poor summer crop production in 2015 and experienced a severe winter drought in 2015/16 which resulted in many VDCs being classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) between November 2015 to July 2016. Additionally, because of the winter lean period, DFSNs had classified 32 VDCs in Humla, Mugu, Kalikot and Bajura as highly food insecure during mid-November 2016 to mid-March 2017.

Affected VDCs	PHASE 3	
	Total Population	Estimated affected population
Bihi	592	100
Chhekampar	951	200
Chumchet	897	200
Kerauja	3141	600
Lho	687	200
Prok	556	100
Samagaun	584	100
Sirdibas	2,427	500
Uhiya	1,857	400
TOTAL	9,835	2,400

Table 1: Estimated affected population (Phase 3) by VDCs in Gorkha (Source: DFSN, Gorkha)

Food security outlook (mid-July to mid-November 2017)

District Food Security Networks, based on current conditions and future scenarios, have forecasted the likely food security situation for the period of mid-July to mid-November 2017 (the Nepali months of *Shrawan*, *Bhadra*, *Asoj*, and *Kartik* 2074). Overall, DFSNs anticipate that the food security situation will deteriorate during this period, especially in some mountain areas of Kalikot, Humla, Sindhupalchowk, Gorkha and Dhading.

The upcoming cereal crop harvest of maize and paddy will be taken only in September and end of November, respectively. With the winter crops (wheat and barley) harvested in April/May, households with poor winter crop harvests will have already experienced depleting food stocks toward the end of this reporting period. Because of the erratic and insufficient rainfall during paddy transplantation so far this season, production prospects for paddy also appear bleak. The first advance estimate (as of 7 August 2017) forecasted paddy production at 3,666,570 mt, a 30 percent decrease compared to the production level of 5,226,647 mt in 2016.

DFSNs forecasted that during mid-July to mid-November 2017 no VDCs are likely to be classified as severely food insecure (Phase 4), the number of VDCs likely to be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) will increase to 37 (from 9 currently), and the number of VDCs likely to be classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2) will decrease to 150 (from 158 currently). The breakdown is as follows:

- DFSNs projected that 37 VDCs in 5 districts (3 in Kalikot, 12 in Humla, 5 in Dhading, 8 in Sindhupalchowk, and 9 in Gorkha) may be classified as **highly food insecure (Phase 3)**. Most of these VDCs are located in high mountain areas where food stocks maintained through the winter have already started to be depleted. Furthermore, summer crops of maize and paddy will be harvested only after September and November, respectively. Production of cereal crops in these high mountain areas is generally low and hence, households in these VDCs might experience a transitory food gap, especially during August to September. Moreover, during the monsoon season, earthen roads and trails in these areas may be damaged and affect the supply chain of food and other essential goods to markets, leading to higher prices. Affected households in these areas adopt coping strategies like skipping meals, borrowing food on credit, and selling small livestock.
- DFSNs predicted that 150 VDCs in 9 districts (24 in Dolakha, 20 in Nuwakot, 12 in Ramechhap, 2 in Rasuwa, 28 in Sindhupalchowk, 9 in Gorkha, 27 in Kalikot, 15 in Humla, and 13 in Jajarkot) are likely to be classified as **moderately food insecure (Phase 2)**.
- DFSNs forecasted that all other areas of the country will be classified as **minimally food insecure (Phase 1)**. In these areas, households will meet their food needs through winter crop stocks and market purchases. The harvest of maize in September will also replenish household food stocks.

Updates

- **NeKSAP District Food Security Network meetings:** MoAD organized District Food Security Network (DFSN) meetings in 74 of 75 districts in July 2017. Each DFSN analysed the food security situation in their district based on the NeKSAP integrated food security phase classification method (see below). The DFSN analytical outputs were validated and endorsed through five NeKSAP regional debriefing meetings held between 2-7 August 2017.
- **Food security analysis training:** WFP and MoAD organized a one-day food security analysis training for government officials on 13 August 2017. A total of 15 participants from MoAD, CBS, and Ministry of Health participated in the training. The training aimed to enhance participants' knowledge on analysing key food security indicators like the food consumption score (FCS) and dietary diversity score (DDS) based on household data.
- **Training on CRAFT:** MoAD and WFP organized a three-day training on CRAFT on 26-28 July 2017. A total of 15 participants from CBS, AFU, IAAS, NARC, NDRI, DHM, DoA, and MoAD participated in the training.
- **Briefing to newly elected municipality officials on food security monitoring:** MoAD and WFP organized briefings and orientations on food security monitoring and response analysis to newly elected officials in Makwanpur and Lamjung districts. A total of 51 officials (including mayor, deputy mayor, chairperson, vice-chairperson and executive officers) participated in the orientation sessions held on 23 July (in Lamjung) and 27 July (in Makwanpur).

Background

The Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) operates nationwide, including District Food Security Networks in 74 of 75 districts (only Kathmandu district is not included). NeKSAP is implemented by the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) with the strategic guidance of the National Planning Commission (NPC). The World Food Programme (WFP) currently provides technical assistance for NeKSAP with funding from UK aid from the UK government. Additional partners include the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), FAO, UNICEF, the National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat (NNFSS), the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS).

District Food Security Networks use the NeKSAP integrated food security phase classification method to classify the severity and causes of acute food insecurity in Nepal every four months (March, July, November) and on an ad hoc basis in the event of a large-scale disaster, such as the April-May 2015 earthquakes.

For a comprehensive picture of the food security situation in Nepal, additional information on chronic food insecurity, undernutrition and poverty from other sources, including the 2016 Nepal Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), 2010/11 Nepal Living Standards Survey (NLSS), 2014 Small Area Estimation of Food Insecurity and Undernutrition in Nepal, 2014 IPC Chronic Food Security Analysis, and 2014 Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, should be consulted in conjunction with information from NeKSAP.



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District food security information

The Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) monitors 74 districts across Nepal. The analytical outputs of the most recent round of DFSN meetings forms the basis for this bulletin. District food security bulletins are available upon request in English and Nepali.

Cluster 1. Karnali

Dolpa
Humla
Jumla
Kalikot
Mugu

Cluster 2. Far-Western Hill & Mountain

Achham
Bajhang
Bajura
Baitadi
Dadeldhura
Darchula
Doti

Cluster 3. Rapti-Bheri Hills

Dailekh
Jajarkot
Pyuthan
Rolpa
Rukum
Salyan
Surkhet

Cluster 4. Western Terai

Kanchanpur
Kailali
Bardiya
Banke
Dang
Kapilbastu
Rupandehi

Cluster 5. Central and Eastern Terai

Nawalparasi
Chitwan
Parsa
Bara
Rautahat
Sarlahi
Mahottari
Dhanusha
Saptari
Siraha
Sunsari
Morang
Jhapa

Cluster 6. Western Hill and Mountain

Gorkha
Lamjung
Tanahu
Arghakhanchi
Gulmi

Palpa
Syangja
Parbat
Baglung
Myagdi
Mustang
Manang
Kaski

Cluster 7. Central Hill and Mountain

Sindhuli
Ramechhap
Dolakha
Sindhupalchok
Kavrepalanchok
Nuwakot
Rasuwa
Makwanpur
Dhading
Lalitpur
Bhaktapur

Cluster 8. Eastern Hill and Mountain

Taplejung
Panchthar
Sanjhuwasabha
Ilam
Okhaldhunga
Khotang
Dhankuta
Udayapur
Solukhumbu
Bhojpur
Terhathum



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